



## Legislative Bulletin.....June 25, 2001

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### **H.R. 645—Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Reauthorization Act (Gilcrest)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered under a motion to suspend the rules on Monday, June 25.

**Summary:** H.R. 645 would reauthorize through FY2007 the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act (first authorized for FY1996) at a maximum of **\$10 million per fiscal year** (same as current law). Specifically, this bill would authorize appropriations to the Multinational Species Conservation Fund, used by the Secretary of the Interior for research and conservation programs overseas. Only \$1 million of the \$10 million authorized was actually appropriated in the current fiscal year. The current authorization expires after FY2002.

The bill would also cap administrative expenses related to rhinoceros and tiger conservation at not more than 6% of appropriated funds or \$80,000 (per fiscal year, whichever is less).

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The CBO confirmed that H.R. 645 would cost \$50 million over five years, if the maximum amounts are appropriated.

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?:** No, it reauthorizes current law.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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**H.R. 1668—To authorize the Adams Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work on Federal land in the District of Columbia and its environs to honor former President John Adams and his family. (Roemer)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered under a motion to suspend the rules on Monday, June 25.

**Summary:** The bill would authorize the Adams Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work (e.g. a statue, monument, memorial grove, etc.) on federal land in D.C. or its immediate surroundings to honor the public service legacies of former President John Adams, his wife Abigail, their son—former President John Quincy Adams, his wife Louisa, and other Adams family members. All fundraising and expenses related to the establishment of the work would be the sole responsibility of the Adams Memorial Foundation. No federal funds would be allowed to be used. If a remaining balance exists after all expenses have been paid to establish the work, such balance would have to be transferred to the U.S. Treasury.

The bill highlights the public accomplishments of individual members of the Adams family. Some examples follow:

- *John Adams*—leader of the Second Continental Congress, a negotiator of the Treaty of Paris (ending the Revolutionary War), the nation’s first vice president and second president.
- *Abigail Adams*—wife of John Adams, early advocate for women’s rights, “prolific writer, fierce patriot, and staunch abolitionist.”
- *John Quincy Adams*—ambassador to key European countries, chief negotiator of the Treaty of Ghent (ending the War of 1812), Secretary of State and author of the Monroe Doctrine, the nation’s sixth president, the only former president to be elected to the House of Representatives.
- *Louisa Adams*—wife of John Quincy Adams, advocate and writer on women’s rights and abolitionism.
- *Charles Adams*—son of John Quincy and Louisa Adams, vice-presidential nominee for the Free Soil Party, House member, ambassador to Great Britain during the Civil War.
- *Henry Adams*—son of Charles Adams, “eminent writer, scholar, historian, and public intellectual.”

**Additional Background:** The D.C. area currently has no commemorative work honoring the Adams presidents or their families. This year is the 200th anniversary of the end of the presidency of John Adams, and July 4th will be the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The bill explicitly prohibits the use of any federal funds for the establishment of the commemorative work.

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?:** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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**H.Res.99—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Lebanon, Syria, and Iran should call upon Hezbollah to allow representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit four abducted Israelis...held by Hezbollah forces in Lebanon. (Crowley)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered under a motion to suspend the rules on Monday, June 25.

**Summary:** The resolution calls upon Lebanon, Syria, and Iran to encourage Hezbollah to allow Red Cross representatives, who have previously been denied access, to visit four abducted Israelis whom Hezbollah are now holding.

The resolution states:

- On October 7, 2000, Hezbollah illegally crossed the border from Lebanon into Israel and kidnapped three Israeli soldiers, bringing them back to Lebanon
- Eight days later, Hezbollah kidnapped a fourth Israeli (no mention of whether this person is also a soldier), also bringing him back to Lebanon.
- Since Hezbollah receives “substantial amounts of financial assistance” and other support from Iran and Syria, these governments should therefore be able to influence Hezbollah behavior.
- Lebanon, Syria, and Iran have voted in favor of the United Nations’ Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution would authorize no expenditure

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?:** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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## **S. 657—To authorize funding for the National 4-H Program Centennial Initiative (Lugar)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered under a motion to suspend the rules on Monday, June 25.

**Summary:** This bill would authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide a grant to the National 4-H Council to pay the federal portion (50%) of the costs associated with the Council's Centennial Initiative (in 2002). The Initiative would be a "public-private partnership to develop new strategies for youth development" in the context of an internationally interdependent and technology-driven economy. Federal funds could go towards meetings, seminars, and listening sessions at the national and local levels that are part of the Initiative.

The grant, which would not be larger than \$5 million, would also fund the federal share of the Council's preparation of a report (for the President, Secretary of Agriculture, and Congress) that 1) summarizes and analyzes the discussions, 2) makes specific recommendations of youth development strategies, and 3) outlines a plan of action for such strategies.

**Additional Background:** The bill notes that the 4-H program is one of the largest youth development organizations in the country, operating in all 50 states and more than 3000 counties.

This bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent on June 19, 2001.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The bill would authorize a one-time appropriation of \$5 million.

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?:** S .657 authorizes new expenditures for a one-time program and requires a report (upon provision of a grant).

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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**H.Con.Res. 161 — Honoring the 19 United States servicemen  
who died in the terrorist bombing of the Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia  
on June 25, 1996. (Isakson)**

**Order of Business:** The concurrent resolution will be considered under suspension of the rules on Monday, June 25, 2001.

**Summary:** The resolution notes that today is the fifth anniversary of the bombing of the US Embassy in Saudi Arabia that killed 19 military personnel and wounded 500 and that “those guilty of this attack have yet to be brought to justice.” The resolution resolves that Congress, “on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the terrorist bombing of the Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia, recognizes the sacrifice of the 19 servicemen who died in that attack, and calls upon every American to pause and pay tribute to these brave soldiers and to remain ever vigilant for signs which may warn of a terrorist attack.”

**Cost to Taxpayers:** None.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules:** No.

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**H.Res. 160 —Calling on the Government of the People's Republic of China to immediately and unconditionally release Li Shaomin and all other American scholars of Chinese ancestry being held in detention, calling on the President of the United States to continue working on behalf of Li Shaomin and the other detained scholars for their release, and for other purposes. (C. Smith)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution will be considered under suspension of the rules on Monday, June 25, 2001.

**Summary:** The resolution notes the arrest and/or detention of US citizens and residents in the Communist People’s Republic of China and calls for their immediate release and offers a sense of the House regarding actions the President should take.

Specifically, the resolution notes that:

- “in recent months the Government of the People's Republic of China has targeted, arrested, and detained several scholars and intellectuals of Chinese ancestry with ties to the United States, including at least 2 United States citizens and 3 permanent residents of the United States”
- The Government of the People's Republic of China “has continued to commit widespread and well-documented human rights abuses, in violation of internationally

accepted norms including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which the People's Republic of China signed in October 1998”

[Note: President Carter signed this covenant, and the Senate ratified it on June 8, 1992. Its text can be found at <http://worldpolicy.org/americas/treaties/icescr.html>]

The resolution also lists several of the detainees and describes their circumstances:

**Dr. Li Shaomin:** U.S. citizen and scholar, detained for more than 100 days, formally charged with spying for Taiwan on May 15, 2001, has not been allowed to contact his wife and child (both U.S. citizens), or his lawyer.

**Dr. Gao Zhan:** permanent U.S. resident and scholar, detained for more than 114 days, formally charged with ‘accepting money from a foreign intelligence agency’ on April 4, 2001, has not been allowed to contact her husband and child (both U.S. citizens), her lawyer, or Department of State consular personnel in China.

*The resolution states, “there is reason to believe that the ‘confessions’ of Dr. Li Shaomin and Dr. Gao Zhan may have been coerced.”*

**Tan Guangguang:** permanent U.S. resident and researcher, detained on suspicions of ‘leaking state secrets’, has been denied access to lawyers and family members, and has yet to be formally charged with any crimes;

**Teng Chunyan:** permanent U.S. resident, Falun Gong practitioner, and researcher, sentenced to three years in prison for spying, apparently for conducting research which documented violations of the human rights of Falun Gong adherents in China, placed on trial in secret and forced to undergo three months of ‘thought re-education’ while she awaited an appeal to the Beijing Higher People's Court, which was denied on May 11, 2001.

**Liu Yaping:** permanent U.S. resident and businessman, arrested and detained in Inner Mongolia in March 2001 for alleged failure to pay income taxes, denied any access to family members, denied regular access to lawyers, reported to be suffering from severe health problems, and has yet to be formally charged with any crimes.

And resolves that the House:

- “condemns and deplores the continued detention” and calls for the immediate release of the above people and other scholars detained on false charges,
- “condemns and deplores [their] lack of due process,” and the “probable coercion of confessions from some of them;”

- “condemns and deplores the ongoing and systematic pattern of human rights violations by the Government of the People's Republic of China,” of which these unjust detentions “are only important examples;”
- strongly urges of China “to consider carefully the implications to the broader United States-Chinese relationship of detaining and coercing confessions from United States citizens and permanent residents on unsubstantiated spying charges or suspicions;”
- urges China to consider releasing Liu Yaping on humanitarian grounds [due to his illness]
- believes that human rights violations inflicted on U.S. citizens and residents by China “will reduce opportunities for United States-Chinese cooperation on a wide range of issues;”

And states the sense of the House that the President:

- should make the immediate release of these people “a top priority” of U.S. foreign policy with China;
- should continue to make every effort to assist these people and their families while discussions of their release are ongoing;
- should make it clear to China, that the detention of U.S. citizens and residents on unsubstantiated charges or suspicions of spying, and the infliction of human rights violations upon U.S. citizens and residents, “is not in the interests of the Government of the People's Republic of China because it will reduce opportunities for United States-Chinese cooperation on other matters; and
- should immediately send a special, high-ranking representative to China “to reiterate the deep concern of the United States regarding these continued imprisonments and to discuss their legal status and immediate humanitarian needs.”

**Cost to Taxpayers:** None.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules:** No.

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